

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

9. (new) A surgical instrument comprising:
- a) a first jaw and a second jaw in an opposing relationship;
 - b) a first and a second lever arm, each having a distal end connected to the first and second jaw, respectively, and a proximal end, wherein the distal ends of the first and second lever arms interface in an overlapping manner and the lever arms form a substantially U-shape structure and actuation of the first lever arm permits movement of the first jaw relative to the second jaw, and actuation of the second lever arm permits movement of the second jaw relative to the first jaw.
10. (new) The surgical instrument of claim 9 wherein the substantially U-shape structure is sized to accommodate a surgeon's fingertip.
11. (new) The surgical instrument of claim 9 wherein the first and second jaws are curved.
12. (new) The surgical instrument of claim 9 wherein the distal end of at least one of the first and second lever arms comprises a fingertip support.
13. (new) The surgical instrument of claim 9 wherein the proximal end of at least one of the first and second lever arms is attached to a fastening element.
14. (new) The surgical instrument of claim 13 wherein the fastening element comprises a spring element that attaches to the proximal end.

15. (new) The surgical instrument of claim 13 wherein the proximal end comprises a spring element that attaches to the fastening element.
16. (new) A method of performing a minimally invasive surgical procedure in a patient comprising:
- a) creating an incision to permit hand access within the patient;
 - b) securing an instrument of claim 9 to a fingertip of the hand;
 - c) Inserting the hand including the instrument into the patient; and
 - d) performing the surgical procedure using the instrument.
17. (new). The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of actuating the first and second lever arms to grasp tissue.
18. (new) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of actuating the first and second lever arms to dissect tissue.
19. (new) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of performing blunt tissue dissection with at least one jaw.